

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a processor;
a framer controlled by the processor;
a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a first set of configuration information and a second set of configuration information, the first set to configure the framer to communicate across a communication network using a first networking protocol, the second set of configuration information to configure the framer to communicate across a communication network using a second networking protocol; and
an interface module having a network interface and to detect a voltage at an unused contact to identify a networking protocol for which the apparatus should be configured.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the interface module comprises:
a connector to couple the framer to the communication network, the connector having a plurality of contacts, a first contact of the plurality grounded;
a resistor coupled between a power supply and a second contact of the connector; and
a detector coupled to the second contact to detect a voltage at the second contact, the detector driving a selection between the first set of configuration information and the second set of configuration information.

3. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a first networking device operating in a first networking protocol;
a cable having an RJ-48 connector at a first end and a BNC connector at an opposing end, the cable coupled to the first networking device;

a second networking device coupled to the cable, the second networking device automatically identifying from the cable the first networking protocol and then switching to driving itself into the first networking protocol.

4. (Previously Amended) A system comprising:
a first networking device operating in a first networking protocol;
a cable coupled to the first networking device;
a second networking device coupled to the cable, the second networking device automatically identifying from the cable the first networking protocol and driving itself into the first networking protocol; and

wherein the cable has a connector at each end, the connector having a plurality of unused contacts, and wherein the second networking device has a power supply coupled through a resistor to at least one unused contact when the cable is coupled to the second device.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the second networking device comprises:

a network interface module that identifies the cable protocol.

6. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 7 wherein the detector signals a software switch which selects a first set of configuration data to configure the device in a first protocol if the voltage is at the predetermined level and selects a second set of configuration data to configure the device in a second protocol if the voltage is not at the predetermined level.

7. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the second networking device comprises:

a detector to identify if a voltage at the cable side of the resistor is at a predetermined level.

8. (Canceled).

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9. (Previously Amended) A method comprising:
coupling a pair of networking devices together with a cable;
detecting in a first device of the pair from the cable a mode of the second
device by monitoring an unused contact of a cable connector for a predetermined
voltage level; and
driving the first device into the mode detected.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (New) An apparatus comprising:
means for framing a message coupled to a means for controlling the
framing;
means for storing a first set of configuration information to
communicate across a communication network using a first networking protocol, and
for storing a second set of configuration information to communicate across a
communication network using a second networking protocol, the means for storing
coupled to the means for controlling the framing;
means for interfacing with a communication network and detecting a
voltage at an unused contact to identify a networking protocol for which the apparatus
should be configured.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:
means for providing a selected resistance between a power supply and a
contact of the means for coupling; and
means for detecting a voltage at the contact to drive a selection between the
first set of configuration information and the second set of configuration information.

10. (New) A system comprising:
means for communicating over a network using a first networking protocol;
means for connecting the means for communicating to one end of a cable having an RJ-48 connector coupled to a BNC connector,
means for automatically identifying from the cable the first networking protocol and then switching to the first networking protocol.

11. (New) A system comprising:
~~a~~ means for communicating over a network using a first networking protocol;
~~a~~ means for communicating over the network using a second networking protocol;
~~a~~ means for coupling communication using the first networking protocol to communication using the second protocol;
~~a~~ means for automatically identifying the first networking protocol from the means for coupling communication by supplying power through a resistor to at least one unused contact of the means for coupling,
~~a~~ means for driving the means for communicating over the network using the second networking protocol into the first networking protocol.

12. (New) The system of claim 11 wherein the means for communicating over the network using a second networking protocol includes the means for automatically identifying.

13. (New) The system of claim 12 wherein the means for automatically identifying includes ~~a~~ means for identifying if a voltage at the cable side of the resistor is at a predetermined level.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the voltage detected is either a voltage open or a voltage short between two of a plurality of unused contacts.

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19. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the voltage detected is across a resistance of an electronic interconnection between at least two unused contacts.

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20. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein detecting includes measuring the predetermined voltage level between an electronic interconnection between a plurality of contacts of the cable connector that do not include signals according to a mode.

21. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein detecting includes driving the predetermined voltage onto a different unused contact of the cable connector from the first device.